

NEWS RELEASE

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OPEN HOUSE WILL DETAIL PLANS TO
CLOSE ABANDONED MINES NEAR VERNON

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will hold an open house to present information about a proposal to close abandoned mines in the Sheeprock Mountains south of Vernon. The meeting will be held in the Vernon Fire Station, Friday, February 25, 2005, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The project calls for closing entry to 73 abandoned mine openings in various locations of the Sheeprock Mountains. A variety of methods will be used including backfilling, bat gates, shaft grates and masonry walls. Work is expected to begin late spring of 2005.

“This is an opportunity for local residents to find out more about the project, provide input or voice concerns,” said Chris Rohrer, project manager. “We invite anyone with an interest to take some time to meet with us in an informal setting and find out more about the project.”

The project area is on National Forest land and is cooperatively funded with the Forest Service under a Participating Agreement. While the principal objective is to close old mines it also seeks to improve the watershed by preventing mine wastes from eroding into streams.

Work in these mines dates back as far as the 1870s but most production work ended by the World War II era. The mines produced silver, lead, zinc, gold, tungsten, iron and copper.

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